

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-6 and 8-18 are pending in this application. By this amendment, claims 1-18 have been amended and claims 2, 3 and 7 have been cancelled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited therein. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate allowable claim 7 and intervening claim 2. Allowable claims 8 and 4 have been amended into independent form. Additionally, claims 1-18 have been amended for clarity, to correct antecedent basis and dependency. No new matter is added. Reconsideration and prompt allowance of the application in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant appreciates the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 4, 5, 7-10 and 13-18.

II. Rejection Under §102(b)**A. Rejection Over Tsujimoto**

The Office Action rejects claims 1-3, 6, 11 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by WO 03/045675 (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0142238 relied upon as the translation) to Tsujimoto et al. (hereinafter “Tsujimoto”). Applicant has amended claim 1 to include allowable claim 7 and intervening claim 2. The rejection is thus moot in view of this amendment.

It is unnecessary to separately discuss the features recited in dependent claims 3, 6, 11 and 12 given the existence of clear and distinguishing features in independent claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

B. Rejection Over Enders

The Office Action rejects claims 1-3, 6, 11 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4, 343, 671 to Enders. Applicant has amended claim 1 to

include allowable claim 7 and intervening claim 2. The rejection is thus moot in view of this amendment.

It is unnecessary to separately discuss the features recited in dependent claims 3, 6, 11 and 12 given the existence of clear and distinguishing features in independent claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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